The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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SEA FARING WORKERS COMING TO THEIR OWN

Washington, Aug. 18.—Sea faring workers, through organization, have smashed the age-long fiction that "jack tar" cannot protect himself, and these workers now confer with cabinet officials and ship owners to place the American merchant marine on a substantial footing.

Organized sailors have insisted that the decline of this nation's merchant marine can be traced not to the absence of subsidies to ship owners, but because the American boy will not go to sea under conditions that prevailed prior to a few months ago.

This viewpoint was practically agreed to at a conference held in this city by government officials, sea faring workers and ship owners. The conference call was signed by Secretary of Commerce Redfield and Secretary of Labor Wilson. The unions represented were the International Seamen's union and its affiliates, the Marine Engineers' Beneficial association, and the American Association of Masters, Mates, and Pilots and its affiliates. Ship owners present represented the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico. The largest ship owning interest present was the International Mercantile Marine company, known as the "trust."

The conference agreed that the number of seamen in the England-France and coastwise trades should be increased. With this end in view, wages were increased, a bonus of 50 per cent of the wages while in the war zone was granted and $100 compensation for loss of effects caused by war conditions, were agreed to. A certain number of boys will be employed in addition to the usual crew, such boys to have ample opportunity to learn seamanship.

The ship owners will permit representatives of their organized employes to have access to the docks and vessels during reasonable hours, and the workers agreed to join with the owners in an appeal to seamen now employed on shore to come back to the sea.

ROOSEVELT QUESTIONED.

Chicago, Aug. 18.—In reply to an open letter by Theodore Roosevelt, to Victor Olander, secretary-treasurer Illinois state federation of labor, following the East St. Louis riots, the unionist submits this question to Mr. Roosevelt:

"The negro worker, like all other workers, is seeking to improve his working conditions so that he may have an opportunity to live a better life. The joining together of workers in trade unions has resulted in progress. I am sure you will agree with me in that statement. Why then should not the negro worker now be frankly told by those who claim to be his friends that he should do as other workers have done? Get together with his fellow workers, whether they be black or white, in the movement that has for its purpose better economic conditions for all, from which will come improved social and political conditions.

"I protest as vigorously as you do against the mob but I will not remain silent while the mob forms."

The controversy between Secretary Olander and Mr. Roosevelt started when the unionist's telegram on the East St. Louis riot to President Gompers was referred by the latter at a New York meeting which was attended by the ex-president. Mr. Roosevelt later acknowledged he knew nothing of economic causes behind the riot.

"PATRIOTIC" PROFITEERS.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—"Patriotic profiteers who seek to rob the people and enslave the workers are the worst traitors to the nation," says Organized Labor, official paper of the California state building trade council.

This paper calls attention to the Santa Clara valley cannery strike. Employes were paid 75 cents and $1 a day and the canning corporations were charging $75 a ton for apricots. When the employes ceased work the corporations howled that the fruit was being sold to the government and now it was rotting. When the union decided that its members should return to work pending mediation the corporations forgot their former claim and then said there was no work because there was no fruit to be canned. These managers, who deny their workers the right to organize, stated that they had to consult the board of directors of the fruit canners' corporation before they could accept mediation.

"In plain terms," says Organized Labor, "they told the men and women in Santa Clara county, who have had their homes there for years, that they could not have a union, while the canners have a close corporation which controls the market."

SHIP STRIKEBREAKERS.

Seattle, Aug. 18.—More than 600 strikebreakers, brought here from New York during the street car strike, have been shipped back east on a special train. During their stay here police guarded the barns where they were housed and the thugs were not permitted to go outside. The strike was caused by the Puget Sound Traction Light and Power company's opposition to the Street Car Men's union and its refusal to raise wages and decrease hours. The matter has been referred to an arbitration board whose findings will date as of August 1.

WANT MARSHALS CURBED.

Chicago, Aug. 18.—President Fitzpatrick of the Chicago federation of labor has complained to Washington authorities that Louis and Fred Wolff, heads of the Wolff manufacturing concern, are using their positions as United States deputy marshals to break the strike at their plant.

The Wolffs, of course, deny the charge and say they were appointed before the strike because they "wanted to 'do their bit.'" The firm manufactures plumbers' supplies and employs large numbers of men who recently organized to raise wages.

METAL TRADES CONFER.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—Conferences between representatives of the iron trades council and the California metal trade association over the new wage scale and agreement are still being held. An agreement between the two organizations expires September 15.

LIFTS AGE LIMIT.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Aug. 18.—It is stated that the Atlantic Coast Line railroad has lifted its age limit of 40 years for employes because of the war.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 18.—Truck Drivers and Teamsters' union No. 66 has signed a three-year agreement which raises wages $1.50 a week.

NAVY LEAGUE'S HEAD SCORED FOR SLANDER

Washington, Aug. 18.—Labor slanderers will probably be more cautious in the future after they have read an open letter by Secretary of the Navy Daniels to Col. Robert M. Thompson, president of the Navy league. This organization recently declared that the investigation of the explosion at the Mare Island (California) navy yard, on July 9 last, has been held up by orders from navy officials, acting under "influences exerted by powerful labor interests."

In his letter Secretary Daniels rounds up these rabid anti-unionists, and in calling on Thompson and associate officials to immediately resign, declares that the statement regarding the explosion "is too contemptible to deserve notice."

Secretary Daniels refers to an offer from the Navy league to co-operate with the navy department in every manner possible, and a suggestion from Col. Thompson that the league's officials are ready to resign if deemed proper. He then says:

"In view, however, of the false and slanderous statement given out by the Navy league, I am writing to say that the chief service which you and the other active officials of the Navy league can render to the navy is to resign at once and permit the league to be directed by those who in a crisis like the present could not permit a statement to be given out to the public which attempts to discredit the entire navy department and which will be read with disgust and contempt by every honest citizen of America."

The Navy league is a voluntary organization composed of "big navy" advocates.

DISSECTS TWO VERDICTS.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—Thomas J. Mooney was found guilty of last year's bomb outrage. His wife, charged with the same offense, was found not guilty. The Labor Clarion dissects these two verdicts, as follows:

"Twelve men found Mrs. Rena Mooney not guilty on the evidence introduced by the prosecution. If Mrs. Mooney is not guilty how can her husband be guilty? It is not disputed that the two were together on the day of the explosion, and, therefore, if one is innocent the other must also be innocent. Mooney was convicted on the testimony of Oxman, yet the district attorney failed to put Oxman on the stand in the Mrs. Mooney case. If Oxman did not perjure himself in the Mooney case, and if the district attorney believes he is an honest man, why was he not used as a witness against Mrs. Mooney?

"Can these questions be satisfactorily answered? If not, then Thomas Mooney is entitled to a new trial, Oxman ought to be in jail and the district attorney's part in the affair thoroughly investigated. Nothing short of this will satisfy the public that justice has not been outraged. Let us get to the bottom of this whole nasty mess."

FALSE ADS LURE WORKERS.

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug. 18.—Local organized machinists charge anti-unionists with attempting to flood this city with machinists through the publication of the following fake advertisement in several cities:

"Would you be willing to be imprisoned 18 months at work on a new war secret, if you received double pay? If you are the right kind of a mechanic, of unquestioned Americanism, and don't mind a little thing like being shut off from the world entirely for nearly a year, they want you at the Westinghouse company at Pittsburg. Also, you would have the satisfaction of knowing something that the neighbors don't even dream of, which is always a comfort."

Large numbers of letters have been received by officers of the Machinists' union regarding this ad and many machinists rushed to Pittsburg to discover they were duped.

DONT RELAX LABOR LAWS.

Philadelphia, Aug. 18.—Dr. Wilmer Krusen, director of health and charities, has issued a warning against the relaxation of women's and child labor laws in these war times.

"We should profit by the mistakes of our allies," he says, "who in the rush of battle did not have time to make adequate provision for the mothers and children at home. Circumstances caused a demand for child labor and mothers, who should have stayed at home to care for the babies, were required to obtain employment on the farm and at the factory.

"As a result, the infant population bore the burden of neglect as evidenced by an increased infant morbidity and mortality. Let us, therefore, make every effort for such preparations as will not necessitate any relaxation of our women and child labor laws to meet any military exigency."

MACHINISTS ADVANCE.

Jackson, Mich., Aug. 18.—Machinists' union No. 96 has reached an agreement with the Michigan Central railroad. Wages are advanced 5 1-2 cents an hour, or about $15 a month, for machinists employed in the local railroad shops. The company agrees not to employ additional women when men can be secured. All women are to be paid the prevailing rate of 45 cents an hour.

BROOM MAKERS PROGRESS.

Minneapolis, Aug. 18.—The Broom Makers' union has secured the best wage scale for this industry in the United States. Rates are advanced 10 cents a dozen on tieing brooms and 2½ cents a dozen on power sewing. The agreement has been accepted by every broom manufacturer in this city and will continue for one year.

WANTS BETTER HOUSING.

Wilmington, Del., Aug. 18.—The central labor union insists that housing conditions in this city are inadequate and that two and three families live in small houses, thereby endangering public health. The unionists ask city authorities to appoint a commission to study the question.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY GAINS.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 18.—The eight-hour day agitation is sweeping through Tacoma industries. Fourteen lumber mills and wood working establishments and four furniture factories are recent additions to the shorter work day theory.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, Aug. 18.—Plumbers' union No. 123 has raised wages 50 cents a day by resorting to the conciliation system, which proved successful, as these workers are well organized.

TROUBLE FOR WAGES BY LAW

Adelaide, South Australia, Aug. 18.—Labor's dissatisfaction with state arbitration proceedings has increased because of a ruling that a wage award by a majority of a board is not sufficient unless that majority is a majority of the whole board. The decision is considered so serious that unionists are urging it be immediately tested.

The Daily Herald has this to say of the arbitration laws in this state:

"When the wages board system was first introduced it was supposed to be a panacea for all industrial ills. The sequel, unfortunately, has proved how unreliable was this expectation. Instead of simplifying matters wages boards have complicated them. Even at best, as they are now constituted, wages boards are more representative of the employers' interests than they are of the employes.

"If the strike is, as is contended by many, a barbarous method, it has some recommendations on the score of simplicity, definiteness, and directness that are not possessed by other schemes. Legal action may be more refined, but, without saying anything on the question of the rights or wrongs of striking, when it comes to a climax, the less refined way generally proves to be more effective. The worker, however, does not wish to be compelled to resort to the strike. He wants legislation made simple and effective, so as to compel every industry to pay a living wage and provide decent working conditions."

ARE WOMEN DELIGHTED?

Philadelphia, Aug. 18.—A local newspaper prints a first-page story, embellished with large pictures, of 200 women employed in the machine shops of the General Electric company.

This is how the newspaper attempts to make the public forget its former preachments that "women's place is in the home:"

"Already pretty girls and capable matrons are at work on the spacious floors of the General Electric company, operating lathes, running the drill punches with a will, all of them neat and trim in the new masculine uniforms, all feminine in spite of the trousered legs.

"Blue chambray is the chosen material; little Dutch caps keep back flying hair from the whirring wheels; white feet and ankles showing beneath the full gathered trousers complete the effect of the woman 'there for business,' but still very much a woman."

Company officials are quoted as saying that women will be employed entirely, "except for such machine work that is too heavy for any except a man."

It is intended that the public will accept new conditions because the women are pictured as being "perfectly delighted" with their new overalls. This uniform, the newspaper assures us, "retains woman's femininity" in the greasy, thunderous machine shop.

HAS UNION IDEA.

Chicago, Aug. 18.—The Illinois Manufacturers' association has caught the trade union idea of securing legislation through the developing of public opinion. In a letter to employers urging them to protest against the revenue bill now before the United States senate, the manufacturers say:

"Every message makes a dent.

"Do not get discouraged. Keep on pounding your senators and members of the house in whose districts you have property with letters and telegrams and you will get results. Keep on fighting. The more you talk, the more sentiment you make, and public opinion is what controls congress. Public opinion runs the capitol. Public opinion runs the administration.

"Every time a taxpayer speaks to a senator or house member or sends him a telegram or writes him a letter about a pending measure he creates an impression. We have encouraging letters from members of congress stating that the sentiment is changing to our side and urging that our members continue to send telegrams and letters."

CONSCRIPT GUN MEN.

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 18.—Conscript the gun men and strike guards is the advice of the West Virginia Federationist.

"Governor Cornwell has within his power to do a great service to the state of West Virginia and the United States by creating a regiment of trained gun men now in the employ of the coal companies, and draft it into the government service," says this paper. "These guards could then satisfy their blood lust on the subjects of the mad kaiser to their hearts' content. The state must get rid of this gang of cut throats before any semblance of law and order can be maintained in the sections in which they operate."

UNIONISTS TO CONFER.

Sacramento, Cal., Aug. 18.—Officers of the California state federation of labor have issued a call for the eighteenth annual convention to be held in this city beginning Monday, October 1.

Cincinnati, Aug. 18.—The thirty-fourth annual convention of the Ohio state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning Monday, October 8. For the first time in several years a contest will be had over the presidency, because of the retirement of John Voll who has succeeded the late Denis Hayes as president of the Glass Bottle Blowers' association.

TWO SHIFTS FOR FIREMEN.

Chisholm, Minn., Aug. 18.—The double platoon system for firemen at this place has been authorized by the council and became effective the first of the month.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 18.—The central labor council has called on the city council to establish the two-platoon system for municipal firemen.

REJECT SMALL OFFER.

Cameron, W. Va., Aug. 18.—Potters' union No. 73 has rejected the 7½ per cent wage increase offered as a compromise for its 25 per cent demand. The unionists declare that certain classes of common labor are receiving as much and more than the average sanitary potter.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Aug. 18.—The Carpenters' union and organized contractors have re-opened an agreement between the two parties and raised wages 5 cents an hour, making the new minimum 55 cents.

LONGSHOREMEN WIN.

New York, Aug. 18.—Striking longshoremen employed by the Southern Pacific railroad have accepted a wage increase of 5 cents an hour and returned to work.

PEACE IN INDUSTRY TALKED IN ENGLAND

New York, Aug. 18.—In the Annalist, a financial paper published in this city, a London correspondent discusses the findings of a committee appointed by the English government to investigate the question of industrial peace after the war.

The essence of the recommendations is an appeal to employers and employes to establish the principle of definite and permanent co-operation, through organization. The government will be asked to propose, without delay, to the various associations of employers and employed the formation of joint standing industrial councils, which will be supplemented by district councils and works committees, the whole to act in unison, meeting regularly, exchanging views and making recommendations.

It is stated that it is of the greatest importance that the right of the pre-war trade union rules and regulations should be thus unequivocally recognized. The unions, it is stated, have parted with many cherished principles in the interest of the state and it would be the height of imprudence to attempt to water down the promise of complete restoration which has been given. In that direction would lie the destruction of confidence, and the revival of old prejudices. Any modifications—and these are certain to take place—must be by mutual understanding. Questions connected with demobilization will call for early attention, for it will be no easy task to redistribute the millions of men who have been called away from different work.

"If the country (England) is to reap a maximum of profit from the lessons of the war," concludes the correspondent, "there must be a mutual willingness to be rid of the distrust which has so frequently thrown employers and employed into opposite camps in the past."

PROFIT IN COPPER.

New York, Aug. 18.—While western copper companies are using thug methods against employes who demand a living wage, the report of the Utah Copper company indicates that these concerns are far from bankruptcy courts.

For the quarter ended June 30 the Utah company made a profit of $10,563,541, against $9,958,316 the previous quarter. Earnings last quarter were computed on a basis of 27.97 cents a pound for copper, against 26.17 cents in the previous quarter. The cost of production has decreased from 10.84 cents a pound the previous quarter to 9.46 cents the last quarter, while the amount of copper placed on the market increased approximately 13,500,000 pounds.

New York, Aug. 18.—The report of the Ray Consolidated Copper company for the quarter ended June 30 shows profits of $3,678,898, which is equivalent to $2.33 a share, or at the annual rate of $9.32 per share of $10 par value. The price of copper increased about 1 cent a pound over the previous quarter. The output was 23,532,119 pounds the last quarter, as compared with 22,952,404 pounds the previous three months. The average cost of production was a fraction over 11 cents a pound.

MINERS HAVE NO VOICE.

Trinidad, Col., Aug. 18.—The Colorado Fuel and Iron company, through President Welborn, announces that the Rockefeller brand of "unionism" will stand and the United Mine Workers' union will not be recognized. This decision was reached after Welborn discussed 16 grievances of his miners with representatives of the United Mine Workers which has a large membership now employed in these properties.

Mr. Welborn's enthusiasm for the Rockefeller "union" idea is not shared by Editor O'Neill of the Trinidad Free Press, who says:

"After a strike of 15 months the miners of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company were not in a position to resist the plan of subjugation that was imposed upon them, but after recovering their breath and recuperating from an industrial conflict of more than a year they showed their repudiation of the 'industrial representation plan' by becoming members of the United Mine Workers of America."

EIGHT-HOUR DAY PAYS.

Washington, Aug. 18.—The eight-hour day has spread with great rapidity in the coal mining industry during the past year, and now the government sustains organized mine workers regarding the practicability of this change.

In a report issued by the United States geological survey it is stated that with a less number of men more coal was mined in the anthracite and bituminous fields in 1916 than in 1915. The figures are: 1915, total tons, 531,619,478; total number of employes, 734,008. In 1916, total tons, 590,098,175; total number of employes, 720,971.

5 PER CENT ARE ARRESTED.

Chicago, Aug. 18.—Five persons out of every 100 in this state are arrested every year and 2 per cent are annually convicted of some crime or misdemeanor, says the Illinois bureau of criminal statistics in its first annual report. Approximately 37,000 persons go to penal institutions each year and 83,000 pay fines or are placed on probation. To make arrests and care for prisoners it costs Illinois $12,000,000 annually.

BLACKSMITHS GAIN.

Indianapolis, Aug. 18.—Blacksmiths employed by the Big Four railroad and subsidiary branches have raised wages 2½ and 4½ cents an hour for mechanics, helpers and handymen.

LINE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Boston, Aug. 18.—A strike threat by 1,700 organized electrical workers forced the New England Telephone company to raise wages 25 cents a day.

TRENCH WARFARE AT HOME.

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug. 18.—A shower of molten metal, caused by an explosion at the plant of the Spang Chalfant Steel company, seriously injured 10 workers.

LUMBER HANDLERS GAIN.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—Organized lumber handlers have won their fight for higher wages. Rates are increased to 65 cents an hour and $1 an hour for overtime.

FIREMEN RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—The board of public works has raised wages of municipal stationary firemen to $120 a month.

SECESSION IS FUTILE IN MINING INDUSTRY

Butte, Mont., Aug. 18.—The industrial turmoil that exists in the Butte copper industry can be ended through organization in bona fide trade unions is the view of the Free Lance, published in this city. This paper is indorsed by the Montana state federation of labor and gives this information on local conditions:

"It is with a big question mark that we ask ourselves: How long, Oh! Lord, how long will the miners stand for the bunk handed out to them by the leaders of the Metal Miners' union? They (the leaders) are feeding them on promises which do not materialize. And it's 'a dead immortal cinch' that promises are all that the miners will get so long as they insist in staying outside the regular labor movement. The miners in the regular union are working and at last week's meeting of the Silver Bow trades and labor council steps were taken to attempt to bring all the miners into the regular union, the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. That the miners can and will get recognition from the mining companies is a foregone conclusion, but it is also a cinch that the only miners' union which can get recognition is the regular union. How long does it take for men who claim to be thinkers to realize this?

"'Get in right and get results,' is our advice to the miners who are still outside the fold.

"To the committee from the Anaconda smeltermen, who waited on the company officials yesterday, it was made plain that the company would not recognize the Mine Workers' union in any way.

"But it seems 'That none are so blind as those who will not see.' And in the meantime the regular union is growing steadily and more men are going to work each day."

PROFITEERS SCORED.

Cincinnati, Aug. 18.—Editor Frey of the International Molders' Journal pays his respects to what he terms "dollar-Americans."

"Considerable has been said about hyphenated Americans," he says, "during recent months, the inference conveyed by the term being that those to whom it was applied were partly Americans and partly something else. Very little, however, has been said about the most dangerous hyphenate—the dollar-American—whose allegiance is partly to his country and largely to the dollars which he can make out of it.

"The dollar-American is the one who is speculating in foods and the other necessities of life, the one who is extracting two, three and four hundred per cent profit because of the people's necessities. The dollar-American is the one who desires the government's authority to break down trade union organization so that the workers will become helpless.

"The deliberate traitor is not a greater menace to the country than the dollar-American. Unfortunately, the dollar-American is not always recognized, because no one cheers for the flag or makes patriotic speeches with more apparent enthusiasm. It is the dollar-American whom the trade unionists have to protect themselves from during the present time, for it is the dollar-Americans who are endeavoring for their own selfish interests to force intolerable conditions upon wage earners."

CHEAP INSURANCE.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 18.—International President Mahon of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes asks members to discuss the question of increased per capita for the funeral, disability and old age benefit fund and instruct their delegates to the coming convention. President Mahon says that while the convention has the power to abolish the beneficial features he favors the increase, as this is necessary if the benefits are to continue.

The benefits were established five years ago when it was impossible to estimate the cost. Since that time $1,128,520.13 have been expended at a total cost during the entire period of $17.16 per member.

The unionist says that a straight life insurance company would charge this amount for one year, and would exclude the disability and old age benefits.

It is proposed that the per capita tax for benefits be raised to 15 cents, one-fifteenth of which shall be placed in the defense fund. This will mean a total cost of $4.80 a year for funeral, disability and old age benefits.

STATE'S DUTY DEFINED.

Washington, Aug. 18.—The federal bureau of labor statistics reprints this summing up by the English health of munitions workers' committee:

"By the agency of the state women and girls are being exported from their homes and imported into munition areas. By the agency of the state the liberty of the individual to throw up her work and to take her labor elsewhere is restricted. On the state, therefore, the responsibility lies not only for suitably housing these transplanted workers, but also for securing the safeguards needful for their health and morals, the maintenance of which is essential to the nation."

COMPANY HELPS UNION.

Seattle, Aug. 18.—The local telephone company has failed to check unionism among its telephone operators. In an attempt to stop the girls from attending an agitation meeting they were told that electrical workers, now on strike, were "trying to use them." Many of the girls had not heard of the meeting before the company took such an interest in the event and over half of the 800 employes joined the union.

ADVISE NON-UNIONISTS.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 18.—A delegation representing employes of the local traction company appeared at a meeting of the central labor council and asked the unionists' advice on a "labor organization" the company was forming. When the non-unionists retired they were in possession of much information regarding the purposes of this company union.

TILE LAYERS GAIN.

Duluth, Minn., Aug. 18.—The Tile Layers' union has reduced the work week from 48 to 44 hours. Journeymen's wages are advanced from $4.50 a day to $5, and helpers are increased from $2.50 a day to $3.

ICE MEN'S STRIKE OFF.

Boston, Aug. 18.—The ice men's strike, which discommoded residents of exclusive Brookline, has been ended. The state board of arbitration will adjust wage differences.

URGE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 18.—"Arguments against the eight-hour day are for the most part the illusory imaginings of men who will not see," says the Tacoma Daily News.

"They will not see because prejudice clamps their intellects. They are themselves the imprisoned victims of the long day, just as their workmen are. Their intellectual freedom—and what else is worth living for?—is compressed by the cold and miserly notions of a day that is past—past because those notions have been crushed by fact, which does not admit that the eight-hour day is an economic waste, but which insists instead that it is conservation plus, a saving of man power, a guide to a better citizenship and a happier order. The way is clear to those whose visions are clear."

In another editorial the Daily News says:

"The eight-hour day is unescapable. Sophists may argue themselves into shirtless frenzy; employers who think ruin confronts them may protest to hoarseness—it makes no difference. For the turn of the tide is at hand, and the short work day will become a general fact very shortly.

"To attempt to stem it will hasten, rather than delay, the day of its coming. For it has reached that happy status in its career where opposition helps it.

"The northwest will be ahead by a princely sum if mill owners will accept the idea now, and then light in to make the profits that are certain to be made with all hands busy."

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Aug. 18.—Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have convinced employers that high living costs warrant a reopening of their three-year wage agreement which was signed last August.

The following increases have been secured for 50,000 workers:

Cloak and suit cutters, from $29 a week to $31; skirt cutters, from $25 to $26.50; jacket and reefer pressers, from $26.50 to $28.50; jacket and reefer under pressers, from $22 to $24; skirt upper pressers, from $24 to $25; skirt under pressers, from $19 to $20; piece pressers, from $16.50 to $17.50; sample makers, from $24 to $25.

Wages for girls are increased as follows: Skirt basters, from $15.50 a week to $16.50; skirt drapers, from $16 to $17; skirt finishers, from $12 to $13.

Piece operators and piece tailors are advanced from 75 cents an hour to 80 cents; cloak finishers are raised from 55 cents an hour to 60 cents, and button-hole makers are increased 5 cents per 100 button holes.

The union negotiated this settlement through the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective association, which recently waged a bitter contest against the union.

FOOD IS PLENTY IN U. S.

Washington, Aug. 18.—The monthly report of the federal department of agriculture contradicts the claims of food profiteers that "the law of supply and demand" causes high prices.

It is shown that cold storages hold 62.3 per cent more frozen beef than they did a year ago, and the holdings of poultry have increased 366 per cent. The report shows storage holdings, compared with a year ago, as follows:

Frozen beef, 112,442,629 pounds; increase, 62.3 per cent; cured beef, 41,557,780 pounds; increase, 107.2 per cent; frozen lamb and mutton, 3,597,335 pounds; increase, 32.3 per cent; frozen pork, 93,684,410 pounds; decrease, 1.9 per cent; dry salt pork, 226,062,210 pounds; increase, 6.1 per cent; sweet pickled pork, 389,661,187 pounds; increase, 3.2 per cent; lard, 109,528,373 pounds; increase, 4.4 per cent; poultry, 48,588,865 pounds; increase, 366.1 per cent; creamery butter, 85,540,972 pounds; decrease, 20.5 per cent; American cheese, 61,536,889 pounds; increase, 39.5 per cent; case eggs, 6,425,810 cases; increase, 0.7 per cent., and frozen eggs, 14,872,286 pounds; increase, 109 per cent.

PROTEST NEW TRIAL.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—The San Francisco labor council demands the immediate release of Mrs. Mooney and Israel Weinberg. The former has been acquitted of complicity in the bomb outrages last year, but is held on other indictments connected with the same case. Weinberg has been in jail a year on identification testimony which has been overwhelmingly impeached by the police records and the verdict of the Mrs. Mooney jury. The unionists say that "the attempt of District Attorney Fickert, according to press reports, to again try Mrs. Mooney is a rank disregard of the constitutional right of any person not to be twice put in jeopardy."

WHO GETS FLOUR COSTS?

Stevensville, Mont., Aug. 18.—At a joint meeting of 3,000 farmers and fruit growers, President Townley of the National Non-partisan league gave this insight into flour costs:

North Dakota farmers have received from 80 cents to $2.20 a bushel for their wheat. It takes four and one-half bushels of wheat to make a barrel of flour, now selling for $17. The manufacturing cost is 85 cents and the bran, shorts, and other by-products that the millers get from the wheat are worth more than cost of manufacture of the flour.

LABOR PLENTY AT $3 A DAY.

Fargo, N. D., Aug. 18.—Employment agencies in this city report that plenty of men are being found to fill harvest demands where a living wage is paid.

"We have had enough men to fill every call we have had where $3 was offered," said the manager of one agency. "We have some calls from some big farmers who are offering less than that amount, but we are unable to fill their orders."

LEAD WORKERS' STRIKE.

Collinsville, Ill., Aug. 18.—Nearly 1,000 employes of the St. Louis Smelting and Refining company suspended work to compel the reinstatement of five of their fellows who were discharged because of union activity.

MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 18.—About 250 machinists employed by the Lake Torpedo Boat company have suspended work to enforce a 10 per cent wage increase, minimum scales for various branches of the trade and the eight-hour day.

WANT UNION SHOP.

Hazleton, Pa., Aug. 18.—Coal operators and officials of the United Mine Workers' union are arranging a conference in regard to establishing the union shop system. The unionists insist that this would end petty strikes.

CRAFTY "PATRIOTS" SCARE TIMID FOLKS

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—Crafty "patriots," aided by a large section of the public press, rig up the I. W. W. bugaboo to scare timid folks every time workers demand living conditions.

The eight-hour day strike of northwestern timber workers is a strictly trade union movement, but the public press shrieks "I. W. W." The timber workers also demand sanitary bunk houses, the right to board where they please, freedom of speech and an end be put to the practice of employers opening their employes' mail. These demands for elemental justice are ignored by the public press, while it howls "I. W. W."

On this situation the Coast Seamen's Journal says:

"The same employers have, year after year, suppressed every effort of the workers to improve their conditions by collective bargaining. The same men have point blank refused to deal or even talk to the representatives of the organized workers. These are the gentry who would now crawl behind the protective shield of the federal government to save them from I. W. W. agitation. And, as usual, the bulk of the press has nobly (?) come to the rescue of the labor crushers. Today the average American newspaper reader is laboring under the totally untrue notion that the timber workers of Washington, the oil field workers of California and the copper miners of Arizona are all honeycombed with I. W. W. propaganda. In fact, the casual reader is led to believe there is no other motive for recent strikes except 'treasonable I. W. W. propaganda.'

"Well may the labor crushers thank the press, the falsifying daily press. Well may they thank their lucky star that I. W. W.ism furnishes them with an excuse to cry for help from the authorities."

"GUARDS" NOT NECESSARY.

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 18.—Officials of the Virginian railroad announce that no "guards" will be employed to protect their property from alien enemies since the militia has been withdrawn. Government officials advise that guarding is not necessary.

Editor Snyder of the West Virginia Federationist says: "I told you so," and points to the fact that the Federationist repeatedly made this point in its fight against the act which created these deputies.

"This announcement by government officials," says Editor Snyder, "knocks a hole in the argument advanced by the hysterical advocates of the special deputy system and bears out our contention that this system was conceived to be used as a strike-breaking agency and to hold the workers in subjection. This system is only an adjunct to the private guard system now maintained by the criminal corporations of the state and will be used in their behalf at the expense of the state.

"If more attention was paid to the corporations and their private guards who daily violate the laws of the land it would not be necessary for public officials to loose so much sleep for fear of 'industrial disputes.'"

SKILL NOT ESSENTIAL.

Washington, Aug. 18.—In a circular issued by the federal bureau of education on the subject of vocational training, C. E. Downton, superintendent of labor for the Springfield (Mass.) plant of the Westinghouse company, is quoted as follows:

"Approximately 80 per cent of the labor force in a munitions plant consists of machine operatives or other semi-skilled workers. A large force of such workers may be recruited in a reasonable time by careful selection from unskilled labor.

"The greatest contribution the vocational schools can make in the present emergency is to offer for the more promising high-grade mechanics, such as tool makers and others who already have the requisite skill, special courses in the technical knowledge related to the industry and in elementary principles of shop management and routine, with the object of preparing them as quickly as possible for effective service as foremen."

SHOP MEN MAKE GAINS.

Oelwein, Ia., Aug. 18.—The published agreement between shop men and the Chicago Great Western railroad shows that wages have been increased in all departments in the Oelwein shops from 2 to 9 cents an hour. The workers believe these increases will be extended over the entire system. The agreement is effective from July 16.

Minneapolis, Aug. 18.—Committees representing the federated shop men employed on the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad have reached an agreement with this corporation and submitted same to their membership. Substantial wage increases have been secured, with the following additional gains: Recognition of the system federation, eight-hour day, and extra hour's pay for night shifts.

URGE RETIREMENT BILL.

Washington, Aug. 18.—Congressman Keating, chairman of the congressional labor group, appeared before the senate committee on civil service and urged immediate enactment into law of a bill he has introduced providing for retirement and pensioning of superannuated employes of the government.

He said the bill was an emergency measure, intended to give relief to the aged federal employes and to aid the government in increasing immediately the efficiency of its civil departments. It will affect between 6,000 and 7,000 employes.

R. R. STRIKE AVERTED.

Denison, Tex., Aug. 18.—Settlement has been probably affected of the threatened strike of shop crafts employed on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad. The railroad has agreed to raise wages of mechanics and helpers 6½ cents an hour and apprentices 2½ cents. The agreement will be submitted to the 1,600 men affected.

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Butte, Mont., Aug. 18.—Employes of the Butte Electric Street Railway company have raised wages 12½ per cent after a short strike. Former rates were 40, 45 and 47½ cents an hour for one, two or more years respectively. The agreement also provides for time and a half over 11 hours.

BARBERS WANT MORE.

Duluth, Minn., Aug. 18.—The Barbers' union has presented a new wage demand to employers. Earlier Saturday night closing is asked and wages are increased from $16 to $18 a week with a 60 per cent bonus on all receipts over $38 a week.

FOOD CONTROL BILL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, Aug. 18.—Last week President Wilson signed the food control bill which has been discussed in the senate two months after it was rushed through the house of representatives.

Conferees representing both branches of congress struck out the senate clause that the bill did not affect the Clayton labor amendments to the anti-trust law. Under the rules it is impossible to amend a conference report, and it must be accepted or rejected as a whole, or again sent back to conference.

The bill as passed gives the president sweeping powers of food control during the period of the war, such as never before were conferred upon an American executive. Under these powers the president can:

Control foods, feeds, fuel (including fuel oil and natural gas), fertilizer ingredients, farm machinery and tools.

Control of coal mines and coke ovens and fix price for same.

Fix a minimum wheat price of $2 a bushel.

Spend $10,000,000 for nitrates, for fertilizing purposes, and sell to farmers at cost.

Close grain exchanges, boards of trade, etc., to prevent speculation.

Requisition supplies for the army and navy.

Buy, store, and sell wheat, flour, meat, beans and potatoes.

Take over factories, packing houses, pipe lines, mines or other plants and operate them.

The president has appointed Herbert C. Hoover food administrator to enforce the law and that official has announced plans for control of wheat, flour and bread. They provide:

For the vigorous prosecution of all persons who hold more wheat or flour than is required in their normal business.

For the maintenance of a fair price throughout the country, by seizing, if necessary, the entire 1917 harvest and determining the cost to the consumer.

For food administration agencies at the principal wheat terminals throughout the country.

For the restriction of storage to 30 days, unless a special permit is given by the food administration.

For the elimination of speculation by compelling all mills and elevators with more than 100 barrels daily capacity to take out a government license.

WILL NOT AFFECT LABOR.

New York, Aug. 18.—Secretary Bohm of the New York central federated union has received a telegram from President Gompers in which the A. F. of L. executive discusses the rejection of labor's exemption from the food control law. President Gompers says:

"American Federation of Labor did not delay passage of food administration measure for following reasons:

"Under the interpretation of United States supreme court in the case of Payne Lumber company versus Neal it was held that private individuals could not institute legal proceedings under anti-trust legislation. Only the government could take action.

"Civil sundry appropriation laws contain provisions that no appropriation for judiciary can be used to prosecute labor organizations under anti-trust legislation.

"High authority has given assurance that section four of food administration measure would not be interpreted to apply to normal and necessary activities of trade unions.

"The proviso suggested by A. F. of L. that section four should not be interpreted to repeal labor sections of Clayton anti-trust act will be introduced in senate as a separate measure. This course has the approval of President Wilson, who will assist toward the enactment of proposed measure."

AGITATION COUNTS.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 18.—Three girls arrested on complaint of the Electric Cable company for picketing were discharged by Judge Wilder, who said "they have a right to talk to other workers, as pickets, in a peaceful manner." The girls were arrested for violating section 1296 of the Connecticut criminal code, which makes it even unlawful, according to the state supreme court, for a unionist to notify his employer he will quit work if a non-unionist is retained. At the last session of the legislature trade unionists failed in their attempt to secure a modification of this law, but Judge Wilder's decision indicates that their fight was not lost.

BOTTLE BLOWERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Aug. 18.—In a circular to the membership of the Glass Bottle Blowers' association, President Voll says that the wage increases and improved working conditions just secured through conference with employers "brings to our mind very forcibly what organization, through collective bargaining, can do for the wage earner when negotiations under it are backed up by a well balanced, militant association."

Under the agreement wages are advanced 16 and 15 per cent, an apprentice ratio is agreed to and several abuses the men were compelled to accept have been corrected.

DUNCAN HONORED.

Washington, Aug. 18.—On his return to this country from his visit to Russia as a member of the Russian war mission, James Duncan, first vice president of the A. F. of L., was tendered a reception by A. F. of L. officials and the Washington central labor union. The affair was of the most informal character and was largely attended. President Gompers acted as chairman. In his address the labor envoy spoke at length on conditions in Russia, on the fine qualities of the Russian people and the determination of workers in that country to solve their many problems.

TOBACCO PROFITS HIGH.

New York, Aug. 18.—Last week the non-union United Cigar Stores corporation announced that it was compelled to raise prices because of increased labor costs, etc.

Simultaneously with this announcement financial papers stated that the stock of United Cigar Stores had reached its highest point, selling at 122 5-8.

STEEL PLANT IS UNION.

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—The Pacific coast steel corporation has been completely unionized and this concern will hereafter be conducted on the union shop plan.

CLERKS' UNION GROWS.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 18.—The new Retail Clerks' union has enrolled [illegible] employes of nearly half a hundred stores in this city.